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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2006

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SACRAMENTO FELON SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 7 YEARS IN GUN CASE

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that FOY REYNOLDS, 48, of Sacramento, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia to more than 7 years in federal prison, followed by 3 years of federal supervised release. The defendant previously pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm on August 25, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") and the Sacramento Police Department as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun violence by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing these programs with additional tools necessary to be successful, including heightened coordination among federal, state, and local law enforcement, with an emphasis on more aggressive prosecutions.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who prosecuted the case, REYNOLDS was a felon with an extensive criminal history of felonies for drug trafficking, evading police, and weapons possession.

In his guilty plea, REYNOLDS admitted that on April 8, 2006 he fled from the scene of a 911 call reporting "shots fired" at the AM/PM at 1595 Bell Road in Sacramento. Sacramento Police officers arrived on scene and discovered a van registered to REYNOLDS with bullet holes in it. Inside the van, officers found ammunition for a .357 caliber weapon. Officers conducted an extensive investigation that day and stopped a vehicle where REYNOLDS was the passenger. REYNOLDS fought with police before being taken into custody. Under the passenger's seat where REYNOLDS was sitting, officers discovered a loaded .357 caliber Colt revolver.

In sentencing REYNOLDS to 87 months in federal prison, United States District Judge Garcia said that REYNOLDS' life of crime had been a "disaster" for friends and family that cared about him. Judge Garcia found that an 87-month sentence was appropriate to protect the community from future crimes by REYNOLDS and to punish his conduct.

When prosecuted in federal court, felons possessing firearms typically receive much harsher sentences. In addition to the longer sentences imposed, there is no early release on parole in the federal system. After serving 85% of their sentence, defendants in the federal system must also serve a period of supervised release in the community.

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